United Nations A/73/595

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 November 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 128 (w)
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Letter dated 19 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948 (see annex).*

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 128 (w).

(*Signed*) Mahmadamin **Mahmadaminov**

* The annex is being circulated in English and Russian (language of submission) only.

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Annex to the letter dated 19 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948

The Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Noting that 2018 marks the seventieth anniversary since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (hereafter, "the Declaration"),

Acknowledging the significance of the Declaration as an instrument which laid down universal standards for promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Emphasizing the decisive influence that the Declaration has had on the formation of the international regime for promoting and protecting human rights and its significance in the development of international law as a whole,

Recognizing the Declaration as the basis and reference point for intergovernmental cooperation in the field of human rights,

Affirm their commitment to the principle of the rule of law in international affairs, including in the field of human rights,

Consider that global shifts in international politics and economics cannot serve as a justification for changing approaches to the promotion and protection of the human rights and freedoms established in the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration and other fundamental international human rights instruments to which their States are parties,

Stress the need to further promote awareness that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community should treat them in a fair and equal manner, giving all categories of human rights equal consideration and respect,

Reaffirm their commitment to uphold the principle of non-discrimination, as proclaimed in the Declaration, without distinction of any kind,

Remain convinced that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the generally recognized principles and norms of international law,

Support increasing efforts by States to raise awareness and reflect on achievements, best practices and challenges with regard to the realization of human rights for all, without distinction of any kind on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property or other status,

Underscore the role that efforts by States to promote dialogue across civilizations and cultures play in protecting and promoting human rights and strengthening international cooperation,

Note the importance of enhancing national efforts to realize human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Declaration, and of galvanizing mutually beneficial and respectful international cooperation on human rights that takes into consideration national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds of States,

Underscore the need to foster constructive, equal and respectful dialogue and to reject the use of double standards in the field of human rights,

Call upon States to build cooperation in the field of human rights on the basis of the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, to avoid imposing their views and values, and thus to contribute to sustained joint efforts to promote respect for human rights around the world.

Dushanbe, 28 September 2018